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ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 20, 1917

WHOLE NUMBER 2022

**MURDER MYSTERY  
MAY BE SOLVED****Albert Eichorn of Ithaca, Inez  
Johnson of Alma and Joe  
Brennan of Flint in Toils.****A WOMAN HAS CONFESSED****Says That Crime Was Committed in  
Her Home and Lays Actual  
Murder Up to Eichorn**

After three and a half months of constant work, the mystery surrounding the death of Miss Beatrice Epler, the 17-year-old Alma girl killed the night of Sept. 4, seems to have cleared up with the arrest of Albert Eichorn, a farmer living near Ithaca; Mrs. Inez Johnson of this city, and Joe F. Brennan of Flint, as being implicated in the terrible crime which shocked the entire county more than any other case that has come up in years.

Eichorn, against whom suspicion has constantly pointed, but against whom evidence seemed lacking, was arrested in Saginaw late Saturday night. Detective Powers of the Republic Motor Truck Company, Inc.; Prosecuting Attorney Ora L. Smith and E. L. Smith of the legal department of the Republic, went to Saginaw, where he was arrested. He was confined in the Saginaw county jail, facing a charge of murder.

Arthur Murphy went to Flint, where Brennan was arrested the same night. He has been brought to Ithaca and is now lodged in the Gratiot county jail. Early Sunday morning Detective Powers and E. L. Smith closed in on Mrs. Inez Johnson at her home here, and she was arrested on a charge of murder. She was taken to St. Johns, where she is confined in the Clinton county jail.

There is little question but what the greater part of the credit in the case in its final successful conclusion in the arrest of the alleged murderers, should go to David Beaudry, The Republic Motor Truck Company, Inc.; Detective Powers of that company; Attorney James G. Kress, Mrs. John Blank and Mrs. Baker.

The story of the hunt that led up to a confession secured Saturday by David Beaudry, which made the arrests possible, is a story of the stick-to-itiveness of the former French Canadian lumberman. A neighbor of the Johnson woman for months previous to the crime, he had noticed that things did not appear right at her home, and suspected that she was conducting a house of ill fame. He made a complaint against her just previous to the murder, according to his story given out Tuesday afternoon to the Record reporter, and was determined that such a place would not exist where he was living. On the Sunday night previous to the murder he claims to have taken a fifteen-year-old girl from the Johnson home at the point of a gun. On the night of the crime he had always maintained that the Johnson woman had been talking with the Epler girl in front of her home and that later that night an automobile drove up to the house and that parties got into the automobile and left.

Finally after the officers had failed to run down the case, and the Halloran agency failed to produce results, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Epler asked David Beaudry to aid them in the hunt for the murderer or murderers. Beaudry consented to act, if a starting point could be given to him. This was about two months ago.

He was taken to the home of a Mrs. Baker, living in the southern part of the city, the following day and she confirmed a report which had been given to Mrs. Epler. This was added to and strengthened by Mrs. John Blank, and gradually the case began to assume proportions, which made Beaudry was piling up.

A young lad had overheard the conversation between the Epler girl and Mrs. Johnson, the night of the murder, when they talked together in front of the Johnson home and Beaudry took a thousand mile trip to get a statement from this twelve-year-old lad.

Through Mrs. Blank and a Mrs. Sleeper came word of something that Mrs. Gilson had said, when sick for a few hours. This was looked up and added to the string of evidence which Beaudry was piling up.

Attorney James G. Kress during this time was acting with Beaudry taking care of such statements as Beaudry wanted and aiding him in investigations. Then Charles Powers, detective for the Motor Truck Company, who had been working on the case independently, came in, and the three worked together, with such aid as Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Epler could give them. Powers was being paid by the Republic Motor Truck Company, Inc., which had offered a portion of the reward, and seemed very desirous of clearing up the baffling case. Various matters were taken up before Prosecuting Attorney Ora L. Smith at times, for advice, etc.

The climax to the case came through the efforts of Beaudry the latter part of last week. The French Canadian, more familiar with the scenes of the logging camps, than with detective work put it over.

(Continued on Page Four.)

**RED CROSS SEALS****Sale in Gratiot County Is the Best  
Red Cross Has Had**

Mrs. V. H. Shepard, chairman in charge of the Red Cross seal sale in Gratiot county reported this morning that the sale in Gratiot county was the biggest that the county had ever had, and that it was hoped to increase the present sales greatly before Christmas.

She also said that Modern Health Crusader certificates had not yet arrived, but that the buttons and pins were here. She told the Record reporter that the certificates would be sent to the children as soon as received from the state headquarters.

Among the lads who are recording high sales is a lad in St. Louis who has sold eight hundred seals, winning the Red Cross title of knight baronet. Two Alma lads, Mitchell and Wagner, have two hundred sales to their credit, as has one lad in Riverdale. They got the Red Cross title of knight of the modern crusaders and a medal.

**PRUDEN ORDERS BE  
CAREFUL OF LIGHT****Regulates Lights in Orders  
Which Have Been Given to  
Alma Light Company**

We have received the following instructions from W. K. Prudden, Federal Fuel Administrator, for the state of Michigan, and it is necessary to call your attention to his order in regard to furnishing electric current.

The reasons underlying these conditions should be apparent to all, and we are confident that our customers will so regulate their consumption of electricity that no further appeal will be necessary.

The United States Fuel Administrator, acting under authority of an executive order of the president of the United States, dated 23d day of August, 1917, appointing said administrator, and in furtherance of the purpose of said order and of the Act of Congress therein referred to and approved August 10, 1917, did on the 13th day of November, 1917,

ADJUDGE that in his opinion the use of coal for any of the purposes hereinafter described except to the extent hereinafter indicated is wasteful, and that any person using any coal for such purposes except as aforesaid is engaging in a wasteful practice or device in handling or dealing with coal and that the use of coal for such purposes except as aforesaid is prejudicial and injurious to the national security and defense, and a cause of scarcity, locally and generally;

AND ORDERED AND DIRECTED that until further order of the United States Fuel Administrator subject to modification hereafter from time to time and at any time, electricity was to be furnished and used as follows:

1. Necessary street lights may be maintained by any city or town within such city or town under contract with the officials thereof for such maintenance, or to the maintenance of any necessary lights for any public building in compliance with orders of the public authorities, not otherwise herein prohibited.

2. Electric signs affixed to the street fronts of buildings over the street entrances to stores, shops, or other places of business therein, or extending therefrom over the sidewalks for the purpose of announcing the name or business of a retail shop or store, may be lighted or illuminated during the period from one-half hour after sunset until the closing time of said business, in no case later than 11 p. m.

3. A theater, other place of amusement or of a hall or other place of public assembly, together with the name of the play or other entertainment given therein, or of the purpose of any public assembly to be held therein, as the case may be, during the period from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour after the time fixed for the beginning of said entertainment: Provided that the size of any such sign and the amount of electricity needed to operate and illuminate the same shall be reduced at any time upon direction of the State Fuel Administrator.

4. Porch lights upon houses or hotels, or at the entrance to buildings occupied or open for ingress or egress during the night time, or to lights upon private driveways, walks, or in the grounds, of any hotel, manufacturing establishment, or residence or upon the platform of railroad stations, approaches thereto, or in railroad yards or grounds, or to lights to mark the location of fire escapes or exits; or to lights for any similar purposes when authorized by the State Fuel Administrator: Provided, however, that the number and power of any such lights, by this paragraph permitted, shall be reduced at any time upon direction of the State Fuel Administrator.

By the authority delegated to and vested in me it is further ordered: 5. Until further notice every power plant, municipal or otherwise, using coal for generating electricity is prohibited from furnishing electricity for any electric sign used entirely for advertising purposes not coming under the provisions of sections 2, 3 and 4.

It is further declared and ordered that the provisions herein named are (Continued on page four.)

**WILL LEASE  
WATER PLANT****Will Enter Into Contract with  
Roller Mills and Run Station  
for a Year****\$3,800 SAID TO BE PRICE****Pumps and Machinery Are Now Being  
Put in Good Repair Under  
Direction of Competent Man**

There is every prospect that before another week is over the City of Alma will have leased the pumping station of the Alma Roller mills and that for the coming year the city of Alma will have a near municipal water plant.

The committee appointed by the city council, consisting of Aldermen Adams, Ogden, Glass and City Engineer Smith a week ago to confer with L. A. Sharp in regard to renewing the contract for pumping water, made its report to the city council Tuesday evening.

The report made to the council was that the company did not desire to enter into another contract with the city, but that the company would gladly lease the pumping station to the city for the year 1918.

It is understood of course that the city will put its portion of the machinery in good repair and that the company will see that its portion of the pumping machinery is in good shape.

It is understood that the company will lease the pumping station to the city for the year 1918 for the sum of \$3,800. The city will of course have the expense of operating the plant during the year. City Engineer Smith, who has been endeavoring to make an estimate on the cost of running the plant for a year, told the Record reporter that he believed the cost of operation together with the lease cost, would make the expense to the city slightly more than it is at the present time.

The committee, following its report to the council, was empowered to make a contract with the Roller Mills for the lease of the pumping station for the year 1918. It is understood that the Roller Mills is for sale, which is probably the reason why only a one year's lease is given. It is expected there will be no trouble in renewing the lease in another year of conditions remain the same.

Wm. Medler, who has had charge of the pumping station and electric light plant for the Roller Mills for some years, started in Monday at the pumping station and is overhauling the machinery and getting it in good shape, and he will probably have charge of the station under the lease, which will be closed within a week, it is expected.

**WOMAN'S COMMITTEE****Form Committee of Council of National  
Defense**

The organization of a unit of the women's committee of Council of National Defense has been completed in Alma and the following officers and committees are already working along the lines suggested by Mrs. J. D. Grinnell of Bay City. Mrs. Henry Soule, chairman; Mrs. Merrill Stuckey, secretary; Mrs. C. A. Hicks, treasurer. Advisory Board: Mrs. Francis King, Mrs. H. M. Crooks, Mrs. W. A. Bahke, Mrs. J. W. Priest, Mrs. R. H. Wilcox.

Committees—Publicity: Mrs. J. E. Collins.

Ways and Means—Mrs. J. Knoertzer.

Registration—Miss Carolyn Robinson and Miss M. Coyne.

Food Administration—Mrs. Charles G. Rhodes.

This last committee hopes to be able to keep the public informed on both the national and our own local food situation, to investigate prices and aid housekeepers to work along lines laid down by our government.

Mrs. Grinnell, who has done much in the line of war service, spoke to Alma women last week at the home of Mrs. Francis King and, to the women of Alma College on the same evening. She said in part:

"Dr. Wilbur, dean of the medical school of Leland Stanford University, in addressing a large meeting of women in Grand Rapids urged us as we scattered to our homes to spread the urgency of the war position and I pass this word on to you ladies here. Dr. Wilbur says: 'So far Germany has been us. America has to win the war with the help of the allies.'"

"And," she continued, "some women whom I asked to help me in the food drive said they were always busy in the morning and couldn't help until afternoon. France is bled white and it is up to the women to help. On the fourth of December our last ounce of surplus wheat left New York. We must feed our allies with wheat not yet planted and with men as yet untrained."

**INJURED AT FACTORY**

Frank Zaubaz, an employee of the Alma plant of the Michigan Sugar company, suffered a fractured leg Wednesday afternoon when he fell from a ladder on which he was working. He was taken to Brainerd hospital for treatment.

**FIRE IN CAFE****Blaze Cause Small Damage to Euro-  
pean Cafe Tuesday Morning**

The Alma fire department was called to the European Cafe on East Superior street about the middle of the forenoon Tuesday, when a blaze started in the rear part of the cafe, over the kitchen.

The fire was extinguished by the department with a very small loss, after a little difficulty. It is estimated that the loss will not be over \$150.00 to the building and cafe.

It is believed that the fire started from the stove in the kitchen. The small amount of damage done did not force the cafe to close, meals continuing to be furnished as usual starting with the dinner Tuesday.

**THE WAR SAVINGS  
STAMPS ON SALE****Postoffices and Banks Are Hand-  
ling These Little Savers for  
the Smaller Investors**

War-savings stamps, which are reputed to be the greatest little savings device ever offered for the small investor and the small wage earner, are now on sale at the banks and at the post offices the country over. The many stores are also planning on handling these little money savers, and profit bringers.

As near as can be ascertained the banks of Gratiot county will be a unit in acting with the post offices in the sale of these stamps and the people of the county will be behind them. The sale in Gratiot county is under the direction of Francis King and H. M. Dunham, and this must mean sales. They don't ask Francis King nowadays if he will act in such matters, they just step right up and say your it, go ahead and he does. It means that Gratiot county must come across and that there is someone right at the top end of the committee, who is going to see that the people of the county do come across. It's a habit that King has.

One already hears of people who are planning on saving by this method. It doesn't take very much to start. Only a quarter to start with the thrift stamps and if you have a little more than a quarter to invest, just step right up to your banker or the stamp window at your postoffice and purchase one of those war-savings certificate stamps at \$4.12, and start drawing four per cent interest right now.

It is remarkable how these small amounts count up, and it is still more remarkable the great aid that the millions of small investors will be to Uncle Samuel this year in his efforts to lick the stuffens out of the Kaiser, as a result of your investment in his small loans. The United States wants two billion dollars out of these stamps this year. That means your it. "Do your bit" and we all "go over the top." That is Uncle Sam gets the money that he needs. Gratiot raises its quota and you have the best kind of an investment.

The first of the week the committee sent out cards to all of the banks of the county, which announce that these banks have for sale the Thrift and War savings stamps.

Circulation counts—we have it

**CONDITIONS NOT  
IMPROVING ANY****Alma Public Schools Becoming  
More Crowded, Making  
Need of New Building****ATTENDANCE IS ABOUT 1500****Supt. Schultz Has Been Forced to Se-  
cure Two New Teachers to Aid  
in the Grade Work**

The Alma public schools are continuing the rapid and healthy growth which they have been enjoying for the past few years and each week it is becoming more and more apparent that a new eight-room school must be constructed before next fall.

Seen on Tuesday Superintendent A. F. Schultz told the Alma Record reporter that he was confident that before the month was over that the total enrollment of the Alma public schools would reach 1,500, the largest enrollment in the history of the schools. During the past month the enrollment has increased most rapidly and has almost reached that figure.

He also said that he had been forced to secure two more teachers, making a total of over forty, now instructing in the local schools. Miss Louise Keeler of Elkhart, Ind., a graduate of the Western State Normal at Kalamazoo, is one of the instructors secured. She will assist in the fifth grade.

Miss Ethel Vaughn of Frankfort, also a graduate of the Kalamazoo Normal, is the other instructor which he has secured. She will assist in the instruction of the public school in the seventh and eighth grades. One of the new instructors will take up her work immediately after the holidays and the schools with the opening of the second semester.

**ADVISORY BOARD****Half Dozen Local Attorneys Will Give  
Time to Registrants**

The attorneys of the city of Alma are holding a school for the registrants who are now receiving their questionnaires to fill out, and will aid the men in every way possible.

Meetings will be held in the morning at 10 o'clock and in the afternoon at 2 o'clock in the office of Dr. T. J. Carney, just to the rear of the draft office.

In the evening sessions of the board will be held in the City Hall, these evening sessions to be started on Friday evening of this week.

The Alma attorneys who will lend their aid without charge to the registrants are: W. A. Bahke, James G. Kress, Charles H. Goggin, J. D. Spinney, E. L. Smith, Ralph Goggin and D. L. Johnson.

**NOTICE**

On and after this date (December 14) I will be at my office in the Montigel Implement store, adjoining the City Hall, for the purpose of collecting city taxes.

J. M. MONTIGEL,  
City Treasurer.

**WRIGHT PARK****Action Suggests That Park May Be  
Improved Soon**

Wright Park, one of the finest wooded tracts to be found in any city, so near to the heart of the business section, may soon see improvement, if the action of the council Tuesday evening is carried through.

Following a short discussion a motion was made by Alderman Ogden, and supported by Alderman John Chick, that the park board confer with Mr. L. A. Sharp regarding the park, and that it be looked over and that the board mark all trees to be removed.

The timber is so heavy in the park that it is impossible to get a good lawn there, and it is believed that if the action proposed is carried out that the park may be greatly beautified, and made into a far more attractive spot, more in keeping with the name that it bears.

**Y. M. C. A. BOYS  
CAN HELP IN WORK****Secretary Curtis Says That They  
Can Be of Great Aid in Ser-  
vice of Country**

Secretary Curtis, just back from the meeting of Michigan county Y. M. C. A. secretaries at Lansing, reports that the county association is going to make every effort to keep the boys and young men lined up for service to the country at home during war times.

The war is making new demands for the boys in the counties to get together to make themselves better workers at home and better material for soldiers in case they are needed. To bring this about, Secretary Curtis reports: Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Carl Vrooman, has recommended that county Y. M. C. A.'s be organized in every unorganized county. In the organized counties every patriotic effort will be pushed during the winter.

The Father and Son banquets to be put on from Feb. 10 to 17 are the first move planned by the secretaries at Lansing. In every other fighting country in this war there have been thousands of boys who have run away from home and become tramps and criminals. Their fathers have lost control of them in the abnormal excitement of war times. By bringing the fathers and sons together the Y. M. C. A. plans to prevent such juvenile delinquency in this country.

A clean life campaign is another thing that the Y. M. C. A. is going to put across among the boys. The U. S. government is making its greatest effort to keep the army clean and the Y. M. C. A. proposes to give the boys at home the good word for decency. There will be no preaching, but just an honest attempt to make the boys see that moral carelessness doesn't pay; combined with a program of keeping the younger men so interested in big work that they will have no time to be anything but decent. The county association secretaries at Lansing offered all possible co-operation to C. A. Parcells, head of the Federal Boys' Working Reserves, toward getting the younger men enlisted in patriotic service on the farms and wherever needed.

Mr. Parcells put up to the meeting that there was going to be a new call for national thrift that every boy should answer.

He asked the co-operation of the county associations in seeing that the boys realized the great need of saving.

**RED CROSS****Sale of Stamps Over the Entire Coun-  
try Is Big This Year**

Why not make this town a prize winner in the Christmas Red Cross Seal contest? This pertinent query is put by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis in announcing their inter-city Red Cross Seal contest.

Last year an unusual number of new records were made by smaller cities and villages in the sale of Red Cross Seals. This year the competition will be keener than ever. The entrance of America into the war has stimulated the campaign against tuberculosis, and it has been planned to raise a \$3,000,000 War Tuberculosis Fund by means of Christmas Seals.

In 235 localities last year a record of 5 or more Seals per capita was made. In some places the per capita sale went up beyond 50 Seals, as for instance, in the little town of Hershey, Pa., with a population of less than 2,000, where 79 Seals were sold for every man and woman and child in the village.

Besides the competition between towns and cities of which there are ten classes, divided according to population, there is also an inter-state competition. This is extremely lively this year, because every state in the Union wishes to be known for its stand against the Great White Plague, which is a deadly menace to our soldiers and to our civilian population, and which if it is allowed to go unchecked, will do as much harm as the Kaiser's bullets.

The Red Cross room in the gas company's office here is open every afternoon from 1 p. m. until 6 p. m. Everyone is invited to go there and help fold gauze.

**FUEL SITUATION  
CAUSES WORRY****Republic Plant Aided City with  
Two Carloads of Coal—  
Served 160 Families****HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT SOON****Gas Company and Electric Plant  
Nearly Out of Fuel and Must  
Close If Relief Is Not Soon**

Last Saturday afternoon a meeting of some forty odd business men of the city was held in the directors' room of the First State bank at which the fuel situation as it affects Alma was taken up.

A long discussion was the outgrowth and every possible means for relieving the situation was gone into. It was admitted that the situation is very serious and there is little possibility in sight for a very speedy relief for Alma, it seems.

Before the meeting was over F. W. Ruggles, president of the Republic Motor Truck Company, Inc., of the city, turned over to the city committee two carloads of coal from the Republic plant for distribution among the homes which were without coal. There were eighty tons in the two carloads.

The Gratiot County Gas company turned over six tons to haul the coal, which was dealt out in one-half ton lots. Starting late Saturday afternoon the teams were busy working through Sunday and Monday delivering the coal. One hundred, and sixty people were supplied with fuel in this way, due to the efforts of the two concerns.

Jotham Allen, manager of the Alma plant of the Michigan Sugar company, has purchased thirty carloads of coal from Schewang, which he hopes will arrive very shortly and this will be used to some extent at least in relieving the situation here.

In connection with the fuel shortage announcement came from the Gratiot County Gas company late Wednesday afternoon to the effect that its gas coal supply has been cut off, and unless the situation is relieved within two weeks, that the gas company must close.

The gas coal of the company has been coming from Kentucky from the Jellico region and from points in Indiana and Illinois. An embargo by the E. & N. railroad has cut off the supply of gas coal from Kentucky and West Virginia, and embargoes on the railroads of Indiana and Illinois on all coal going out of those states has completely cut off the sources of supply.

The company has coal enough to last for a period of about two weeks, and if relief does not come within that time the Gratiot County Gas company must cease furnishing gas for its consumers. Manager Wagner told the Record reporter that he had hopes that the situation would be clear before that time. He also pointed out the necessity of conserving gas, so that the supply might last just that much longer. He also stated that nearly all of the gas companies in the state were in the same position.

It is understood also that the supply of coal which the Central Michigan Light & Power company has is very small and that his concern must also have relief within twenty days or may be forced to shut down.

The officials of the First State bank say that the directors' room is open for such day time meetings as long as the bank has fuel.

**OPEN SATURDAY****Paris Cafe Will Be Opened By De  
Luxe Candy Company**

The Paris Cafe, the new restaurant which is being put in by the De Luxe Candy company, in the Gibbs block, in the rooms formerly occupied by the postoffice, is expected to open Saturday or Sunday.

The entire room has been remodeled and presents a greatly different aspect than it did when the postoffice was located there. A steel ceiling has been put in place, and the ceiling and walls have been painted a pure white. A row of mirrors will go all around the room.

The fixtures for the front room consist of a number of tables with marble tops, a marble top counter, cases of glass with woodwork finished in white enamel, etc. A heavy linoleum has been laid upon the floor.

The back portion of the room has been partitioned off for a kitchen, in which the latest and best restaurant fixtures are to be found. These include two large refrigerators, a mammoth cook stove, meat block, tables and other needed things.

**A GOOD SUCCESS**

The Presbyterian Aid society sale at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Rhodes last Friday was a great success, both socially and financially. The box supper held early in the evening was attended by about forty. During the evening a number of musical selections were rendered and various articles left from the bazaar held during the day, were auctioned off. The ladies report that they cleared \$141.57.